



The High Impact Venture Action Team (HI-VAT)

The High Impact Venture Action Team (HI-VAT) is a new partnership of the Michigan State University (MSU) Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources in cooperation with MSU Extension, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Michigan Office of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD).

Food processing and agribusinesses within the state can access HI-VAT to help solve business expansion challenges and seek expansion opportunities. Support areas include marketing, business planning, regulatory compliance, and access to government economic development incentives and financing. The joint team brings together the considerable resources of Michigan State University and critical governmental agencies to support the expansion of Michigan's agricultural, food and bio-based products system.

HI-VAT is designed to assist business expansion projects that meet one or more of the following minimum criteria:

- \$1 million or more of new investment,
- \$2 million or more of new annual sales, or
- 30 or more additional or retained jobs.

Businesses interested in assistance from HI-VAT should contact Tom Kalchik, associate director, MSU Product Center at 517-432-8752 or kalchikt@msu.edu.

